

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIEOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/DECISION RECORD
COBI Lease Renewal Application, OR 65382
CE# OR117-08-22

A. Proposed Action: California Oregon Broadcasting, Inc. (COBI) has applied for a Communications Site Lease renewal for their existing communications facility at Baldy Mountain. The communications site is located on public land in Section 27, T. 36 S., R. 5 W., Willamette Meridian. The proposed action is to renew their existing facilities at the site. Those facilities consist of an equipment building and a free standing tower within a fenced enclosure. COBI's past authorization (ORE 04928) allowed them to sub-lease to other users. A new authorization would also allow sub-leasing. No ground disturbing activities are authorized.

B. Location/Land Use Allocation: Baldy Mountain is an important communications site located near Grants Pass, Oregon. It serves the I-5 corridor and the greater Grants Pass region with a variety of communication uses including television broadcasting and cellular phone service. COBI has operated from the site since the late 1950's.

C. Need / Rationale for the Proposed Action: Baldy Mountain has been used for the broadcast of television, radio, and cellular services for several decades. The need for these services remains strong and is in the public interest. COBI needs to have their existing lease re-authorized in order to continue to provide these services in the greater Josephine County area.

Project Design Features

Notify the Authorized Officer upon discovery of any noxious weed species found on the right-of-way area. The Holder is responsible for immediate control and eradication. The Holder shall consult with, and obtain written approval from, the Authorized Officer for acceptable weed control methods, such as mechanical or chemical, or provide funds to BLM for treatment.

D. Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following plans:

- (1) *Final EIS and Record of Decision for the Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP)* (June 1995).
- (2) *Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (February 1994).
- (3) *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attachment A entitled the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern*

Spotted Owl (NWFP) (April 1994).

(4) *Final Supplemental EIS for Amendments to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (March 2000), and the *Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (January 2001)

(5) *Medford District Noxious Weed Environmental Assessment* (April 1998).

(6) *Final Supplemental EIS for Management of Port-Orford Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (December 2003)

(7) *Final Supplement to the 2004 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines* (FSEIS, 2007 and ROD, 2007).

E. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department Manual 516 DM 11.9, Section E, Realty (16)--*Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes.*

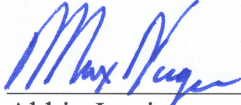
The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if extraordinary circumstances exist that would require further environmental analysis and documentation (516 DM 2, Appendix 2). None have been identified (see attached).

 6/2/08
NEPA Reviewer / Date

JS/JOE HOPPE 5/13/08
Preparer / Date

F. Decision

I have reviewed this CE, plan conformance, and NEPA compliance review and have determined the proposed action is consistent with past practices and in conformance with BLM planning and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the action as described.

FOR  ACTING F.M.
Abbie Jossie
Field Manager
Grants Pass Resource Area

6/3/08
Date

**NEPA COMPLIANCE
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW
COBI Lease Renewal Application, OR 65382
CE# OR117-08-22**

The Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3A (3) requires the review of the following “extraordinary circumstances” (516 DM 2 Appendix 2) to determine if an otherwise categorically excluded action would require additional analysis and environmental documentation.

1) Have significant impacts on public health or safety.

(X)No Remarks: No impacts from continued use of the facility are expected.

2) Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

(X)No Remarks: No impacts are expected from continuation of the lease.

3) Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

(X)No Remarks: This use has been ongoing for several decades and there are no controversial environmental effects of unresolved conflicts.

4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

(X)No Remarks: Effects from continued use with no changes in the facility are known and do not involve unique or unknown risks.

5) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

(X)No Remarks: This is a common action; no precedents for future actions are established through continuation of COBI’s lease.

6) Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

(X)No Remarks: There are no relationships to other actions.

7) *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.*

(X)No Remarks: None are located in the project area.

8) *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.*

(X)No Remarks: No effects to listed or proposed species are expected.

9) *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

(X)No Remarks: There is no evidence that this proposal will violate any laws.

10) *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

(X)No

11) *Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).*

(X)No Remarks: No restrictions are placed on access by others.

12) *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).*

(X)No No site disturbing activities are proposed; spread of noxious weeds is not expected.

Reviewers:

Steve W. Shadler 5/20/2008
Silviculture, Vegetation Dynamics
& Port-Orford Cedar Date

Robin M. Sayle 6/2/2008
Botany Date

Joan Brenner 5/23/08
Cultural Resources Date

Jon R. Brown 6/2/08
Fisheries Date

Steve Ray 5/13/08
Wildlife Date

Michael DeBlasi 5/13/08
Soils/Hydrology Date

J. Miller 5/30/08
Visual Resources / Recreation Date

James B. Rogers 5/20/08
Engineering Date

Allen McInt 5/13/08
Fire + Fuels Date